

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION  
OF THE CITY OF LONG BEACH CERTIFYING THAT: (i) THE  
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE LONG  
BEACH AIRPORT TERMINAL AREA IMPROVEMENT  
PROJECT NO. 37-03 (SCH# 200309112) HAS BEEN  
COMPLETED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS  
OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT AND  
STATE AND LOCAL GUIDELINES AND MAKING CERTAIN  
FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS RELATIVE THERETO;  
(ii) ADOPTING A STATEMENT OF OVERRIDING  
CONSIDERATIONS; AND (iii) ADOPTING A MITIGATION  
MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Long Beach ("City") has proposed certain  
improvements to the existing terminal building and related facilities ("terminal") at the Long  
Beach Municipal Airport in order to accommodate recent increases in flight activity at the  
Airport consistent with the operational limitations of the City's Airport Noise Compatibility  
Ordinance ("Project");

WHEREAS, the Project includes a conceptual site plan review and  
construction or development of, among other things, holdrooms, concession area,  
passenger security area, baggage security area, baggage claim devices, restrooms, office  
space, ticketing facilities and airline gates totaling approximately 102,850 square feet  
together with aircraft parking positions, vehicular parking structure and traffic and  
pedestrian circulation areas;

WHEREAS, the City began an evaluation of the proposed project in

1 September 2003 by issuing a Notice of Preparation (NOP) followed by a thirty (30) day  
2 comment period together with public scoping meetings held on October 11 and October 16,  
3 2003;

4 WHEREAS, recognizing the intense public interest in the proposed terminal  
5 improvements and related facilities, the City Council referred the scope of the project to the  
6 City's Airport Advisory Commission (AAC) in November 2003, after which the AAC held 15  
7 public meetings from November 2003 through July 2004 to consider recommendations on  
8 the scope of possible Airport improvements, and to advise the City Council on certain  
9 issues regarding the scope of the project, Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and  
10 technical studies to be prepared for inclusion in the EIR;

11 WHEREAS, on February 1 and February 8, 2005, the City Council considered  
the recommendations made by the AAC in connection with the terminal improvement  
project and directed that a second NOP be prepared and circulated for public comment;

12 WHEREAS, the second NOP was prepared and circulated between April 14,  
13 2005 and May 16, 2005, and further public scoping meetings were held on April 28 and  
14 May 7, 2005, after which a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was prepared and  
15 circulated between November 7, 2005 and January 30, 2006, for an eighty-four (84) day  
16 public review and comment period;

17 WHEREAS, a series of public meetings to discuss the proposed Project, and  
18 receive comments related thereto, were held on November 29, 2005, December 3, 2005  
19 and December 5, 2005, and a joint study session between the Long Beach Planning  
20 Commission and the Long Beach Cultural Heritage Commission was held on December 15,  
21 2005 to further discuss the proposed Project;

22 WHEREAS, implementation and construction of the Project constitutes a  
23 "project" as defined by CEQA, Public Resources Code sections 21000 *et seq.*, and the City  
24 is the Lead Agency for the Project under CEQA;

25 WHEREAS, it was determined during the initial processing of the Project that  
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1 it could have potentially significant effects on the environment, requiring the preparation of  
2 an EIR;

3 WHEREAS, the City prepared full and complete responses to the comments  
4 received on the DEIR and distributed the responses in accordance with Public Resources  
5 Code section 21092.5;

6 WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has reviewed and considered the  
7 information and the comments to the DEIR and the responses thereto, and the Final  
8 Environmental Impact Report ("FEIR") at a duly noticed Planning Commission meeting held  
9 on May 4, 2006, at which time evidence, both written and oral, was presented to and  
10 considered by the Planning Commission;

11 WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has read and considered all  
12 environmental documentation comprising the FEIR, including the comments and the  
13 responses to comments and errata included in the FEIR, and has determined that the  
14 FEIR considers all potentially significant environmental impacts of the Project and is  
15 complete and adequate and fully complies with all requirements of CEQA;

16 WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has evaluated and considered all  
17 significant impacts, mitigation measures, and project alternatives identified in the FEIR;

18 WHEREAS, CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines provide that no public  
19 agency shall approve or carry out a project for which an EIR has been completed which has  
20 identified one or more significant effects of the project, unless the public agency makes  
21 written findings for each of the significant effects, accompanied by a statement of facts  
22 supporting each finding. The possible findings are: (i) Changes or alterations have been  
23 required in or incorporated into the project which avoid or substantially lessen the  
24 significant environmental effects as identified in the EIR; (ii) Such changes or alterations  
25 are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency, which can and should  
26 adopt them; or (iii) Specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations  
27 make infeasible the mitigation measures or project alternatives identified in the EIR;

1 WHEREAS, CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines require that where the  
2 decision of a public agency allows the occurrence of significant environmental effects that  
3 are identified in the EIR but are not mitigated to a level of insignificance, that the public  
4 agency state in writing the reasons to support its action based on the EIR and/or other  
5 information in the record; and

6 WHEREAS, it is the policy of the City, in accordance with the provisions of  
7 CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines, not to approve a project unless (i) all significant  
8 environmental impacts have been avoided or substantially lessened to the extent feasible,  
9 and (ii) any remaining unavoidable significant impacts are outweighed by specific  
10 economic, legal, social, technological, or other benefits of the project, and therefore  
11 considered "acceptable" under State CEQA Guidelines section 15093.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Planning Commission of the City of Long Beach  
does hereby find, determine and resolve:

Section 1. All of the above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated  
herein as though fully set forth.

Sec. 2. The FEIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA and the  
State CEQA Guidelines.

Sec. 3. The FEIR, which reflects the Planning Commission's independent  
judgment and analysis, is hereby adopted, approved, and certified as complete and  
adequate under CEQA.

Sec. 4. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21081 and State CEQA  
Guidelines section 15091, the Planning Commission has reviewed and hereby adopts the  
CEQA Findings and Statement of Facts as shown on the attached Exhibit "A" entitled  
"CEQA Findings, Facts in Support of Findings for Final Environmental Impact Report No.  
37-03," which document is incorporated herein by reference as though set forth in full.

Sec. 5. Although the FEIR identifies certain significant environmental effects  
that would result if the Project is approved, most environmental effects can feasibly be

1 avoided or mitigated and will be avoided or mitigated by the imposition of mitigation  
2 measures included with the FEIR. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21081.6,  
3 the Planning Commission has reviewed and hereby adopts the Mitigation Monitoring and  
4 Reporting Program ("MMRP") as shown on the attached Exhibit "B", which document is  
5 incorporated herein by reference as though set forth in full, together with any adopted  
6 corrections or modifications thereto, and further finds that the mitigation measures identified  
7 in the FEIR are feasible, and specifically makes each mitigation measure a condition of  
8 project approval.

9 Sec. 6. Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines section 15091(e), the record of  
10 proceedings relating to this matter has been made available to the public at, among other  
11 places, the Department of Planning and Building, 333 West Ocean Boulevard, 7th Floor,  
Long Beach, California, and is, and has been, available for review during normal business  
hours.

12 Sec. 7. The information provided in the various staff reports submitted in  
13 connection with the Project, the corrections and modifications to the DEIR and FEIR made  
14 in response to comments which was not previously re-circulated, and the evidence  
15 presented in written and oral testimony at the public hearing do not represent significant  
16 new information so as to require re-circulation of the EIR pursuant to the Public Resources  
17 Code.  
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20 Sec. 8. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21081(b) and Guidelines  
21 section 15093, the Planning Commission has balanced the benefits of the proposed Project  
22 against the unavoidable adverse impacts associated with Project related construction  
23 activities that will result in significant short-term air quality impacts for NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC and  
24 has adopted all feasible mitigation measures with respect to these impacts. The Planning  
25 Commission also has examined alternatives to the proposed Project, none of which both  
26 meet the Project objectives and is environmentally superior to the proposed Project. The  
27 Planning Commission, after balancing the specific economic, legal, social, technological  
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1 and other benefits of the proposed Project, has determined that the unavoidable  
2 environmental risks and impacts identified above may be considered “acceptable” due to  
3 the following specific considerations which outweigh and override the unavoidable,  
4 potentially adverse environmental impacts of the proposed Project. Each of the separate  
5 benefits of the proposed Project, as stated herein, is determined to be, unto itself, and  
6 independent of the other Project benefits, a basis for overriding all unavoidable adverse  
7 environmental impacts identified in the Findings and in the DEIR. Accordingly, the Planning  
8 Commission approves and adopts the following “Statement of Overriding Considerations,”  
9 finding that:

- 10 (a) The Project will provide improved facilities to better enable the Transportation  
11 Security Administration (TSA) to conduct the required security screening of  
passengers and baggage pursuant to the Aviation and Transportation  
Security Act.
- (b) The Project will allow the incorporation of improvements to the air carrier  
ramp that will allow the electrification of the ground support equipment, which  
will result in a long-term reduction of air emissions.
- (c) By constructing the necessary infrastructure at the Airport, the City will be  
assisting the airlines in their ability to comply with the South Coast Ground  
Service Equipment (GSE) MOU signed by the airlines and the California Air  
Resources Board.
- (d) The Proposed Project provides an increased number of aircraft parking  
positions resulting in less congestion on the air carrier ramp and allowing  
aircraft to connect to GSE, thereby minimizing the amount of idling time while  
waiting for access to a gate. The increased number of aircraft parking  
positions and gates will also allow more efficient departures during peak  
hours. This will potentially reduce the number of delayed flights.
- (e) The Proposed Project incorporates a voluntary land use compatibility

1 program that would address existing and future land uses that are  
2 inconsistent with State noise standards.

3 (f) The Proposed Project will enable the Long Beach Airport to provide adequate  
4 facilities for the minimum number of flights and associated passenger levels  
5 consistent with the City's Airport Noise Compatibility Ordinance.

6 (g) The improvements will be designed to maintain and enhance the historic  
7 characteristics of the Airport Terminal Building by incorporating components  
8 of the original design and potentially restoring features, such as mosaic floor  
9 tiles.

10 (h) The Proposed Project will enhance safety within the Terminal Building by  
11 relieving overcrowding. This will better enable the City of Long Beach to  
meet applicable local, State, and federal standards including the City's fire,  
building, and safety codes.

12 (i) The Proposed Project will eliminate the dependence on offsite leased  
13 parking. The long-term availability of the leased parking is uncertain due to  
14 the month-to month lease for the offsite parking lot. Loss of this offsite  
15 parking will result in insufficient parking onsite, especially during peak travel  
16 periods. Without adequate parking there would be an increase in trips  
17 generated by the Airport and overall vehicle miles traveled. The onsite  
18 parking also provides an incremental benefit to local traffic circulation and  
19 long-term air quality.

20 (j) Implementation of the Proposed Project allows the Airport to better meet  
21 operational needs by providing sufficient office space, meeting rooms, and a  
22 baggage hold room. These facilities allow staff from the airlines, TSA, and  
23 the Airport to conduct functions that need to be in the immediate terminal  
24 area or adjacent to the ramp.

25 (k) The increased concession areas will provide the traveler with greater  
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amenities at the Airport and would increase revenue to the City through additional lease areas.

Sec. 9. The Project as described and studied in the DEIR is the environmentally superior alternative in that it minimizes impacts to the environment to the maximum extent practicable while achieving all of the basic objectives of the Project.

Sec. 10. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the Planning Commission, and the Planning Commission Secretary shall certify to the vote adopting this resolution.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Planning Commission of the City of Long Beach at its meeting of \_\_\_\_\_, 2006, by the following vote:

Ayes: Commissioners: \_\_\_\_\_

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Noes: Commissioners: \_\_\_\_\_

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Absent: Commissioners: \_\_\_\_\_

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Secretary



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